

Best Practices in engaging students in Xello

- Conduct more frequent, shorter sessions are better than infrequent, long sessions.
- Through these shorter sessions, schools are getting better at "blending" how they use Xello. We're seeing less schools rely on Xello as a checklist and more about incorporating the features as part of "conversations".
 - For example, some educators may have a prepared presentation or video from a college and will ask students to find information about the school in Xello.
- Making use of [the lesson resources and plans](#).
 - The use of Xello's lesson plans has steadily increased, along with meaningful engagement.
- Be contextual.
 - Students with low engagement lack context in why they're using Xello. Too often are students told to go to Xello because they "just have to do it". A little context goes a long way. Educators can share their future-readiness paths (micro-focusing on careers and college can also be a deterrent). Highlight success stories from recent graduates and how they prepared (even if they didn't use Xello, there are ways to replicate this in the platform) to get to where they are.
- Too many educators are expecting Xello (the platform, not the company) to do the work for them.
 - Engaging students goes beyond the stats provided in the reports. Successful schools have done a great job in encouraging educators to dig deeper into lesson reflections. I always compare this to giving students a quiz, but not providing them a mark / feedback. Students will always ask "what was the point".
- Listen to your students.
 - What is your students' feedback? Do they find the process disengaging, or the platform itself?
- Promote multi-generational future readiness.
 - Show parents the benefits for being part of this conversation. Parents and their children often have different plans for the future, being transparent with one another (with the help of an educator) can go a long way to helping students keep up-to-date with plans, and their thoughts, within the platform.

Finally, if your students are not engaging in Xello, ask yourself these questions:

- Are the educators ill-prepared?
- Do students not understand the importance?

Xello can help you build proper goals and expectations in a way that can be measured. They offer custom training (there is a fee for this) which many schools take advantage of. This can provide educators an opportunity to work with someone that has experience in not only rolling out a software / web-based platform with students, but Xello specifically. For more information, contact Andrew Carrier at andrewc@xello.world